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The Story of Illinois

BY

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OF THE

CHICAGO BAR

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The Story of Illinois

By John F. Voigt
of the Chicago Bar

A great historian once said: "A people who take no pride in the achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything themselves worthy to be remembered by remote descendants."

It is fitting, therefore, that we who live in the great State of Illinois, which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary since it was admitted into the sisterhood of states, should recall some of the great names and deeds of its history and tell again, briefly, "The Story of Illinois."

The Legislature created the Illinois Centennial Commission in order that this year there may be a state-wide celebration of the centennial of our statehood. The Commission has planned that every county and city, every association and society, every school and church, every civic and patriotic organization in the State shall participate in such celebrations. Statues of Lincoln and Douglas will be unveiled, a state historical pageant giving the history of Illinois will be held at Springfield, the cornerstone of a Centennial Memorial Building will be laid, a history of Illinois in six volumes will be published,—all to the end that our people should take a renewed interest and solemn pride in the achievements of the men of Illinois from which may come a new appreciation of our history and new resolutions to measure up to the high standards of sacrifice, cour-

age and patriotism, which our forefathers set for us, and that we may grow stronger in the realization of our duties and obligations to the State and Nation.

Illinois, with a territory larger in extent than England, and nearly one-half as large as the British Isles; with a climate including the extremes of cold and heat; with a soil unequaled in fertility that produces vegetation of every variety known in the temperate zone; with a fauna almost as varied as its flora; with great coal fields underlying more than half its area; with its magnificent waterways and railways and splendid cities, inhabited by a virile race of people, located at the commercial center of the continent, situated in the zone of intellectual and physical power, it is destined to be a mighty commonwealth in the greatest Republic of the world.

At the very outset one is overwhelmed by the mass of material worthy of attention and we realize that we can mention only a very few of the events in the history of the state. We have, therefore, selected those chiefly that are not within the memory of the men of this generation.

The French were the first Europeans to visit the present site of Illinois. Jean Nicolet discovered Lake Michigan and reached the Illinois country on July 4th, 1634. He blazed the way for the hardy explorers and founders of the state.

In 1673, only fifty-three years after the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock, Louis Joliet and Father Marquette, with five companions, coasted in two birch-bark canoes along the western shore of Lake Michigan from St. Ignace at the Straits of Mackinaw, ascended the Fox River to the portage of the Wisconsin, then went down the latter to the Mississippi and on to the Arkansas, then came back up the Mississippi and the Illinois to the Village of the Peorias and the Illinois town of the Kaskaskias, the site of the present town of Utica, in LaSalle County, and from there to the portage of Lake Michigan where Chicago now stands,

When Father Marquette first reached our shores he found a tribe of Indians whose language he could not understand. They called themselves: "Illiniweek," which, being interpreted, meant: "We are the people." Others called them "Illini," meaning: "We are men." The original Algonquin word was "Inini," meaning: "A perfect man." This term was sometimes called "Illinese," all, however, signifying the same. The French added the suffix, "ois," meaning "tribe," and softened the word into "Illinois," and this name the people and the state have proudly borne since the days of Father Marquette.

LaSalle, in 1675, with a grant from the French government, under the auspices of Governor Frontenac of Canada, and with the aid of Henry DeTonty, constructed the Griffon—a small vessel of forty-five tons—at the foot of Lake Erie—the first sailing vessel ever on the Great Lakes—a vessel, which, loaded with furs, was lost on its return voyage from Mackinaw. It excited the wonder and amazement of the Indians and was the forerunner of the splendid fleet of merchantmen that today sails the Great Lakes and which is destined to be the greatest merchant fleet that sails the inland seas of the world.

LaSalle arrived at the great Indian town of Kaskaskia, January 1, 1680, and then proceeded down the Illinois river to the village of the Peoria Indians.

Near Peoria, LaSalle built a rude fort which he called "Creve Coeur," or "Broken Heart," a name which proved to be most appropriate, for returning to Canada for assistance, he left DeTonty in command of the Fort, when the men mutinied and the fort was partially destroyed. A few years later, LaSalle and his faithful Tonty passed down the Mississippi to its mouth and took possession of the whole Louisiana country, including all the land drained by that great river and its tributaries, in the name of the King of France.

LaSalle planned to fortify "Starved Rock," which he

called Fort St. Louis. The Confederated Indian Tribes, numbering 20,000 people, lived about its base.

The Illinois Confederation included the Kaskaskias, the Peorias, the Cahokias, the Tamaroas, and the Mitchigamies, the last being the tribe after which Lake Michigan was named. Other tribes were the Kickapoos, the Sacs, the Foxes, the Winnebagoes, the Pottawattomies, and the Shawnees.

During the early French occupation, there was a Chief called Chicagou, a man of great intelligence, character and influence with his people. From him the great City of Chicago takes its name. The meaning of the word was, "No use to go any farther." Fort Dearborn was built in 1803, and in the following year John Kinzie, the first white settler of Chicago, established his home on the banks of the river. In 1823 Chicago was only a village of Pike County and was not incorporated until March 4th, 1837.

The Kaskaskia Indians, moving southward about the year 1700, settled near the mouth of the Kaskaskia river, and the village of that name, afterward the first capital of Illinois, was founded. This region was then the most populous in the Illinois country, and was known as the American Bottom. It lay between Cahokia and Kaskaskia, the first two permanent settlements in the state. Several Indian villages and French settlements there carried on an extensive trade in the products of that region with the people of New Orleans.

Pontiac, an Iroquois Chief, the friend of the French and the implacable foe of the English, was assassinated in 1769 by a half-breed Illinois Indian. The Iroquois were the deadly enemies of the Illinois Indians and Pontiac's friends banded together to avenge his death and to exterminate the Illinois tribes, who made their final stand at their ancient village, and after a desperate resistance, retreated in a storm to "The Rock," where the Illinois warriors succumbed to starvation rather than surrender to their ancient foes.

The King of France granted to "The Company of the West," of which John Law was the head, a monopoly of the commerce "from the Gulf of Mexico to the Illinois." Law's Company received enlarged powers under the name of the East Indies Company. It encouraged population and the development of the Mississippi valley, but failed in 1721, being generally known as "The South Sea Bubble," which left behind it thousands of ruined fortunes in both France and England among the people of those countries, who had invested their money in the expectation of making enormous profits out of the development of this then new country.

Law's Company had the right to import slaves and Philip F. Renault brought over 500 Negroes and established slavery near Fort Chartres on Illinois soil in 1721, about 100 years before the Missouri Compromise vexed the people of this country.

Three European powers contested for supremacy in the early days of North America.

1. SPAIN, basing her claim on the discovery by Columbus, claimed both North and South America. Her people extorted gold from the natives and at the same time claimed to save their souls.

2. ENGLAND based her claims on the discovery by the Cabots and the settlements in New England. The English were artisans and mechanics, traders and tillers of the soil, and colonizers as well, and therefore the Anglo-Saxon today dominates about five-sevenths of the North American continent, for wherever they settled they maintained a sure foothold upon the soil.

3. FRANCE based her contention on the discovery of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence by Cartier and the settlement of Quebec by Champlain. The French were traders and missionaries and pursued a policy of kindness to the Indians,—proselyted them and won their friendship which helped the French not only in their explorations, but also in their commercial relations.

The Old Courthouse on Wooded Island in Jackson Park, at Chicago, the first seat of Justice in Illinois, now flies the flags of France, England, and the United States, which successively waived over Illinois soil.

The Spaniards called all the region claimed by them, "New Spain." The English colonists who settled on Massachusetts Bay called that country "New England," while the French gave to their possessions, including the Illinois Country, the name of "New France."

For nearly a century France held almost undisputed control of the Illinois Country, but defeated at Quebec and exhausted by wars, she surrendered her claims to Great Britain at the close of the French and Indian War, and the boundaries between the British, French and Spanish possessions in this country which had been indefinite, were settled by the Treaty of Paris, in 1763, and many of the French people of Illinois, bitterly disappointed, moved to St. Louis, then a Spanish possession, but essentially a French town.

That Illinois is today a part of the Republic and that this vast territory between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River belongs to the United States is due largely to the foresight, the courage, and the ability of one man—Col. George Rogers Clark. At 25 years of age he conceived the idea and put it into execution that accomplished so much for our State and Country. He laid his plan before General Patrick Henry of Virginia, who approved it and gave him assistance. Clark then set out with his men from Virginia, cutting off all communication, relying upon himself and his brave followers, and on July 4th, 1778, with four companies of militia, captured Kaskaskia, and later took Vincennes. The inhabitants were readily conciliated and many of them took the oath of allegiance to the United States. The possession of these two forts in the then wilderness gave us the right to demand that the Mississippi River, instead of the crest of the Allegheny's, should

be the western boundary of our country when the Treaty of Peace of 1783 was signed with Great Britain.

Had it not been for Clark's conquest and possession of this country during the Revolution, the Republic would probably have been a maritime nation scattered along the Atlantic seaboard with British and Spanish possessions on our western boundary beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains. So July 4th, 1778, is the birthday of Illinois because it was on that night, one hundred and forty years ago, that Col. Clark captured the town and garrison of Kaskaskia without firing a shot or shedding a drop of blood, and Illinois was incorporated as a County of the State of Virginia. Patrick Henry, the patriot orator of the Revolution, became our Governor. Local officers were appointed and the civil government of Illinois County was established under Col. John Todd, the County Lieutenant.

In 1781 a company of immigrants from Virginia and Maryland, being the families of some of Col. Clark's soldiers, settled in the American Bottom. Ninian Edwards was appointed Governor. The population of the Territory was then about 9,000, living chiefly in the counties of St. Clair and Randolph.

Massachusetts and Connecticut also claimed rights in the territory extending westward to the Mississippi River, but they, as well as Virginia, ceded to the Federal Government about the close of the Revolution all their claims to Illinois.

The Ordinance for the government of the Northwest Territory, including Illinois, adopted in 1787, declared: "That religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," and provided further with prophetic foresight: "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said Territory, otherwise than in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." This Ordinance was approved by eight of the thirteen states, all that were

represented in that Congress, five being then slave states. General Arthur St. Clair, a soldier of the Revolution, was appointed Governor of the Territory, which included Illinois, in 1788. The Illinois Territory was organized in 1809, thereby beginning its separate history.

For 140 years the people of Illinois have been nicknamed suckers, some say from the fact that the most common kind of fish found in the rivers of the State were suckers. Henry S. Boutell, of Chicago, has collected the following incidents to account for the origin of the name: A Missourian, probably from resentment at his own nickname, first gave us the name. It was the custom of the men of Southern Illinois, in the early days, to go up the Mississippi to the Galena lead mines for the summer, and return in the fall. A Missourian saw a party of men returning to their homes from these mines and called out to them from the river bank: "You fellows are genuine suckers, you go up the river in the spring and come down in the fall." Some historians credit this story with the origin of our name. The use of the word "*genuine*" indicates, however, that the name was even then in common use. Another historian relates that when Col. Clark invested Kaskaskia, he demanded that the Commandant and his officers, whom he found coolly absorbing mint juleps through straws, deliver possession of the fort in these words: "Surrender, you suckers." But the cold facts of history disprove this story, for Clark entered Kaskaskia in the dead of night when the only use the Commandant was making of straws was as a pillow, for Clark found him sound asleep in bed. Everyone at all familiar with the early history of Illinois, continues Mr. Boutel, will see in this tale inherent evidence of its absurdity, because we all know that the early pioneers never allowed straws or any other impediments to interfere with the free flow of their spirits.

Mr. Boutel says the true origin of the name comes from the word "succor," a helper, a deliverer. It was in general use with that meaning 100 years ago. It is now

almost obsolete, but it has been enshrined in our best literature. In Shakespeare's *Henry VI.*, Sir William Lucey in his appeal to the Duke of York, says: "O, send some succour to the distressed lord!" and again Sir William says to Somerset: "Let not your private discords keep away the levied succours that should send him aid," and again in the same play, an Irish messenger says to Beaufort and his associates in appealing to them to stop the war in Ireland: "Send succours, Lords, and stop the rage betime."

In Fletcher's *Double Marriage*, one of the characters in speaking of the death of two friends, says: "You have lost two noble succours," although they were not citizens of Illinois, they were the kind of succours the men of Illinois have always been.

When Col. Clark and his men were in possession of Illinois, hostile soldiers and savage Indians were about to attack St. Louis, then a Spanish settlement on the Mississippi. The Commander, who was friendly to the Americans, appealed to Col. Clark for aid, who immediately sent a force of picked men to their relief. The lookout on the ramparts of St. Louis anxiously scanning the horizon for the approach of their deliverers, when he saw them drawing near, ran back into the fort, shouting: "We are saved, the succours are coming." This, then, says Boutel, is the title of the people of Illinois, so honorably won and so significant of the spirit of helpfulness among our people.

The People of Illinois took but little part in the war of 1812. Captain Heald was in command of seventy-five men at Fort Dearborn. General Hull was in command at Detroit, and upon the approach of the Indians to Fort Dearborn, he ordered Captain Heald to evacuate the fort and dispose of the public property there. Heald agreed with the Indians to divide his stores among them and they agreed to give him and the people of the fort safe passage to Fort Wayne. On August 14th he distributed his goods among the Indians as he had promised, but he destroyed the ammunition, guns and liquor, which he did because he feared the

Indians would make a bad use of them. The Indians claimed this was a violation of the agreement and the following day when the company, with the women and children, marched out of the fort, they were attacked by 500 Indians a mile and a half south of the fort on the shore of the Lake, at what is now the foot of 18th Street, and fifty-two persons—men, women and children—were massacred, after Captain Heald had surrendered on the promise of the Indian Chief Black Bird, to spare their lives. A beautiful statue erected by the late George M. Pullman at the foot of Eighteenth Street and the Lake commemorates this bloody tragedy. It represents Chief Black Partridge rescuing Mrs. Helm, a daughter of John Kinzie, from the tomahawk of a young Indian.

Illinois, comprising fifteen counties, was the twenty-first state admitted into the Federal Union. The Enabling Act was passed by Congress April 18, 1818. The Constitutional Convention met at Kaskaskia, and on August 26th, the thirty-three delegates adopted the Constitution which was never ratified by the people. October 5th the Legislature assembled and Shadrack Bond was inaugurated as Governor the next day. On December 3rd, Congress formally admitted the state into the Union.

Nathaniel Pope was then our Delegate in Congress. He was a man of foresight and ability and through his exertions the northern boundary of the new state was fixed at 42° 30' N. Latitude. That is, some fifty miles north of the south end of Lake Michigan, instead of at the southern part of the lake as first proposed, thereby giving the state fourteen counties in the northern part, extending from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, including the present site of Chicago. Judge Pope realized that Southern Illinois was settled chiefly by people from the slave states and the northern part of the state by people from the older northern and eastern states, and that the location of Illinois would make it a pivotal state in the Union; that its people, if controlled by northern ideas and sentiments, would hold it to the great

commercial north, and as a result when the crisis came, Illinois, although divided in sentiment, stood by the North, and threw its great weight on the side of Union and Freedom. The political, moral and economic result of Judge Pope's action has been of tremendous importance to the state. It is today the center of most of the trans-continental commerce of the nation and is the third state in the Union in population and importance.

Judge Pope secured the modification of the "Enabling Act" so that three-fifths of that part of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands of the state which had been devoted originally to the making of roads and canals, should be used for education and the encouragement of learning.

The First Constitution of Illinois was modeled after the Constitutions of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Its terms did not exclude slavery as specifically as the Ordinance of 1787. The population of the state then was scarcely 40,000. It provided for the election of only two state officers, viz: governor and lieutenant-governor, and such county officers as: sheriffs, coroners, and county commissioners, all the other officers, including judges of all the courts, were appointive either by the governor or the General Assembly, a system that had many advantages over the election of nearly all officers, although it, too, had its faults. The seat of government was Kaskaskia. It was called the "Paris of the West." For a hundred years it was not only the military center of the Mississippi Valley but also the center from which radiated the civil activities of the people.

In December, 1820, the State Capitol was moved to Vandalia, the late Sidney Breeze supervising the removal of the archives of the state in one small wagon.

Edward Coles moved to Illinois in 1819 with ten slaves whom he emancipated on the Ohio River on his way to this state. He was elected our second Governor. He took office shortly after the Missouri Compromise which did not settle the slavery question in the new states, but provoked the most bitter political contests. Governor Coles in his mes-

sage to the General Assembly, called attention to the existence of slavery in Illinois, notwithstanding the Ordinance of 1787 and the Constitutional inhibition against it. He recommended its abolition. By a majority of one, after Nicholas Hansen, a representative from Pike County, had been unseated in the House to obtain that one majority, a proposition for a Constitutional Convention to permit slavery, was carried. Governor Coles, who was persecuted during his entire term because of his stand against slavery, contributed his entire salary of four thousand dollars, for his term of office, to the campaign, and gave all his influence to the cause of freedom. Daniel P. Cook, the State's representative in Congress, after whom the County of Cook was named, championed the cause of freedom also, and the Convention was defeated and Illinois was saved from a great disaster.

The State's Motto: "State Sovereignty—National Union," was the happy solution by our people of the vexing questions that grew out of the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1793. It frowned upon secession, and yet it maintained the right of the state. It recognized that both the State and the Union were each supreme in their respective spheres.

In 1825 General Lafayette visited the State and was welcomed by Governor Coles and the people at Kaskaskia.

A few years thereafter, the Sacs and Fox Indians, in accordance with their treaty, had moved across the Mississippi River after ceding certain lands in Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri to the United States, for which they were to receive the small annuity of a thousand dollars, but retained the right to live and hunt on these lands as long as they belonged to the Federal Government. Black Hawk claimed the Indians who made this treaty at St. Louis were intoxicated and not authorized to do so by their tribes, and that the treaty was void and therefore moved his people back into Illinois. His warriors attacked the settlers and murdered men, women and children and destroyed their prop-

erty, being determined to resist the encroachments of the white man.

Governor Reynolds, in 1831-1832, called out eight thousand militia and appealed to President Jackson for help, who sent fifteen hundred regular soldiers to protect the state. The Indians were pursued through Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. Many of them were killed and the remainder driven across the Mississippi River, and the soil of Illinois was forever freed from their depredations.

Many men who afterwards became famous in the state and nation participated in this war. Zachary Taylor was a colonel in the regular army. Abraham Lincoln was a captain of State Militia. Jefferson Davis was a Lieutenant in the regular army. Governor Reynolds marched with the State troops as did also Duncan, Carlin and Ford, all of whom later became Governors of this State. Many others, later prominent in politics, received their first military experience at this time.

During the administration of Governor Duncan, the state began its gigantic schemes of "Internal Improvements" which cost over eleven millions and proved disastrous to the finances of the State and brought little substantial improvement to the commonwealth. An Act for the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal was passed in 1836. The canal was to begin at or near the town of Chicago and end near the mouth of the little Vermillion in La-Salle County. It was to be sixty feet wide and six feet deep. It was believed at the time that this canal would constitute one of the main arteries of commerce in eastern and western communication.

In more recent years The Chicago Drainage Canal to Joliet has supplemented the effort of those early years and it, together with its continuation which has been planned and for which appropriations have been made, will yet realize the dreams of the far-seeing people of that early day, and men now living may see the completion of a deep waterway from the Lakes to the Gulf.

Duncan's administration saw appropriations made for the improvement of the channels of many rivers in the State and for the construction of eight railroads by the public. Of these projects the Illinois Central Railroad was easily the greatest. It was later carried to successful completion by private enterprise with aid from the National Government, which gave the company every alternate section for six miles on either side of its right-of-way. The State gave it a charter in 1851 and the road was obligated to pay to the State in lieu of taxes seven (7) per cent of its gross earnings annually,—a magnificent revenue for the State. Seven hundred miles of this gigantic system were built in five years and the lands granted to it were sold to actual settlers and soon became the homes of a happy people who have grown rich and prosperous with the growth of the State.

July 4, 1839, the capital was removed from Vandalia to Springfield, where \$240,000 was expended for the capitol building, since replaced by a building more suitable to the needs of a mighty State.

The Mormon Question came to vex the administration of Governor Ford. The Mormons, driven from Missouri, settled at Nauvoo where their peculiar doctrines of "celestial marriages" and their arrogant bearing and assumption of sovereign rights brought them into conflict with their neighbors. Popular indignation increased against them until the militia was called out to suppress the disorders. Then Joseph and Hyrum Smith, who surrendered under promise of protection, were attacked in jail and killed. In the fall of 1845 the Mormons agreed to leave the State, and the following spring the pilgrimage to Salt Lake, under the leadership of Brigham Young began, where their sect has increased and with their doctrines of marriage modified by law, they have become a great factor in the intermountain country of the West.

In 1768 Colonel Wilkin established at Kaskaskia the first common law court held in the Mississippi Valley.

In the early days in some parts of the State the judges

and lawyers wore gowns and wigs and appeared with all the "excellent gravity" which Lord Coke ascribed to the English Bar. The courts were held in log-houses, or in bar-rooms or taverns. In other counties there was little dignity about the courts.

Governor Thomas Ford, who has written a most interesting History of Illinois, tells the following incidents of the early courts of the State. He relates that at the first Circuit Court in Washington County, the Sheriff went out into the court-yard and announced court in these words: "Boys, come in. Our John is going to hold court."

Judges were averse to deciding questions of law and not wanting to offend anyone, preferred to submit everything to the jury. They never commented upon the evidence or undertook to tell the jury what inferences and presumptions might be drawn from it. They never gave any instructions except upon the points asked by the attorneys and then delivered their instructions hypothetically. As lawyers know, it requires the highest order of talent to "sum up the evidence correctly to a jury." Ford says either such talent did not exist or the judges were too modest to exercise it.

In one of the courts a Mr. Green was found guilty of murder. The Judge said: "The jury has found you guilty. The law says you are to hang. Now I want all your friends down on Indian Creek to know I do not condemn you, but the jury and the law. When would you like to be hung?" The prisoner replied: "I am ready any time. Those who kill the body have no power to kill the soul. I am ready any time the court appoints." The Judge said: "This day four weeks you are to be hanged." The Attorney General arose and said: "On solemn occasions like this it is usual to pronounce formal judgment and impress the prisoner with a sense of guilt and the leading features of the crime ought to be rehearsed." The Judge replied: "O, Mr. Green understands all this, just as well as if I had preached to him for a month. You understand it that way, don't you, Mr. Green?"

"Yes," said the prisoner, and the Judge remanded him to jail.

In another case the Judge gave pointed instructions to the jury but the jury disagreed. The Judge inquired the cause of the difference. The foreman said: "This 'ere is the difficulty: The jury want to know whether that *ar raly* the law that you first said to us, or whether '*ony jist*' your notion of it." The Judge thereupon told them it really was the law, and they found a verdict accordingly.

In 1846 the law was passed requiring all instructions to juries to be in writing and with no explanations except in writing.

In minor cases, says Ford, jurors were opposed to convictions. In murder cases if the act was done in a fight or from heat of blood it was impossible to convict, but it was easy to convict an assassin or one who took a dishonorable advantage.

In the Territorial days, men wore hunting-shirts, buckskin trousers, raccoon skin caps and leather moccasins. Some of the rougher characters wore a butcher knife in their belt and were called "Butcher Knife Boys." They claimed unbounded liberty. They opposed any action of the government looking toward their improvement. They were a very small minority, but were united and sometimes held the balance of power. Later they were called, "The barefoot boys" and "The hugh-pawed boys"—names that greatly pleased them.

Marquette and Father Allouez were the pioneers of religion and morality in the Illinois Country. They were the fore-runners of many devoted men who zealously preached the gospel in the new State. The early preachers were uneducated. The sermons were long. The preachers preached from the Bible in loud voices and with violent gestures. Salvation was literally free without money and without price. These hardy pioneer preachers traveled over the prairies and through the settlements along the rivers, traveling on foot and horseback to preach the gospel and estab-

lish churches, often swimming the streams, and suffering hunger and cold.

Gov. Ford gives us a glimpse of the times somewhat as follows: About 1820 educated ministers began to arrive in the state. By 1830 quite a number were here. They were sent by missionary societies in the North and East. They began to establish Bible societies, tract societies, missionary societies and Sunday schools and churches. The uneducated preachers looked upon them with jealousy and some bad feeling, and said they knew nothing about religion except what they learned in college. The people of the towns and cities demanded better preaching. The new preachers settled in the towns to supply this demand. They got what little salary the people could afford to pay—supplemented by contributions from charitable societies in the Eastern States. Some of the older ministers charged that these preached for money and sold the gospel to the rich who could pay for it, and that they were not concerned about the salvation of the poor and ignorant people of the country. The young college ministers persevered and organized churches and religious societies. Both types of preachers were needed. They were not competitors. The uneducated rough preacher of the pioneers was welcomed in the country places but was not so well suited to the cities, while the learned minister, who came from the college with the college style of oratory, did not appeal to country people. These new ministers began to establish colleges and seminaries. They sought charters from the legislature, but the charters forbade them to have a theological department, as the people at that time were opposed to encouragement by law of a sectarian ministry. John M. Peck, Philander Chase and Peter Cartwright were perhaps the most famous of these early preachers. Cartwright was defeated for Congress by Abraham Lincoln.

About 1830 came a change in the dress of the people. Cloth coats, boots and shoes came into use. Women began to wear calico and silk. The young ladies no longer walked

to church carrying their shoes and stockings in their hands till near the church. They now wore calf or kid shoes, and the homespun cotton and woolen dresses were changed for more stylish wearing apparel. They rode horseback to church with their gentlemen friends. The ministers of those early days inspired ambition and industry, and with these came a desire for more knowledge and greater advancement.

In this advancement of the young people, the church played an important part. They came to meetings well dressed, to admire and be admired, as well as to worship. To gratify pride, they learned economy and thrift. In neighborhoods where people did not attend church on Sundays, the young people felt no pride in their dress or advancement and no desire for improvement. They seldom ever dressed up on Sunday. The week of labor was not cheered by a day of rest and brightness by mixing with the best people of the community.

Elijah P. Lovejoy was educated for the ministry, but chose the profession of journalism. He was editor of the St. Louis Observer. He advocated "Gradual Emancipation of the Slave," and directed his editorials against the institution of slavery. A negro was lynched by a mob, and the Observer denounced the crime. Lovejoy's office was mobbed. He saved his press and moved to Alton. He claimed the right to freely speak and print what he thought of slavery. Three times the mob destroyed his press and office. He ordered a fourth press. He dedicated his life to the freedom of the press and the slave. He resolved to stand by his principles. He relied on the Constitution that guaranteed him protection of his property and his life and freedom of speech. He said: "If the civil authorities refuse to protect me I must look to God, and if I die, I am determined to make my grave in Alton." He would not move and he would not yield. He stood not only for the freedom of the black, but in a larger sense for liberty of speech and liberty of the press everywhere. On the night of November 6, 1837, while

guarding his fourth press at a warehouse with a company of twenty citizens, he was shot down by a mob and the unused press was thrown into the Mississippi River. He died a martyr to the cause he espoused. Eighty years have passed since the tragic ending of his noble life, but he did not die in vain, for the principles for which he died have triumphed throughout the land. Our great state has erected a splendid monument at Alton to commemorate his name and fame.

The New Constitution adopted in 1848 made many changes in the fundamental law. It prohibited the immigration of free persons of color, but this provision was repudiated in the War of the Rebellion. It provided for the election of many officials who had heretofore been appointed. Profiting by the wild extravagances of 1837, and the craze for public improvements at public expense, it prohibited the state from incurring indebtedness in excess of \$50,000, without a vote of the people. Following the model of eastern and northern states it provided for township organization, thereby showing the growing influence of New England sentiment. It remained the fundamental law until 1870, when the present Constitution was adopted.

The great question of slavery, and the opposition to it, and especially opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, united the republican editors of the state who called a meeting at Decatur in 1856, which meeting in turn called a State Convention, which was held in the City of Bloomington on May 29th, when the first Republican State Ticket was put in the field, and at the following election, William H. Bissell, a hero of the Mexican War, was elected the first Republican Governor of Illinois. During Bissell's administration occurred the joint debates between Lincoln and Douglas, which defined the issues of the Civil War soon to follow, the immediate result of the debates being Douglas' election to the Senate, but which later also made Lincoln president.

In 1860 Richard Yates was elected Governor, and during his administration, the contest between the North and

the South was fought. The War Governor of Illinois not only gave patriotic direction to the energies of our people, but marshalled the State's heroic hosts in defense of the Union. The War Department records show that 255,057 men enlisted from this State in the service of the Nation from 1861 to 1865, and many a gallant son of Illinois sleeps today on Southern soil, where he gave his life for the cause of Union and Freedom.

The Patriotic services of the women of the State were second only to those of the men. They organized "Soldiers' Aid Societies", "Sisters of the Good Samaritan", "Needle Pickets", and thousands of them served as Nurses in the hospitals and in the field. Angels of mercy all—whose deeds of kindness and love mitigated the horrors of war.

No great progress was made with the war until Abraham Lincoln, the man from Illinois, that greatest, grandest man, that miracle of the 19th Century, that gentle, just and loving man, that most humane, most divine man since the days of Nazarene, proclaimed liberty to the slave and the Grand Army of the North under the leadership of the unconquerable Grant, the silent soldier of Illinois, whose words were few, but whose deeds are history, enforced the presidential decree by battles fought and won. Then for the first time since our national history began the limbs of four million human beings were no longer chilled and chafed by the chains of slavery. By giving freedom to the slave, freedom was assured to the free, for by that act human labor everywhere was dignified, ennobled and exalted. Slavery made millions think all labor ignoble and degrading, and that everyone who labored with his hands was no better than a slave. Slavery was the worst blow ever struck at free labor since the world began.

More than a half a century has gone since those heroic days. The State has grown great in population, power and influence. Time is wanting to tell the wonderful story. I would that I might recount the great names of the State, especially those of the last fifty years, such as Stevenson,

Davis, Logan, Yates, Oglesby, Fifer, and a host of others beloved by all, but time forbids.

We have inherited much from the founders and builders of our State. Located with its head and shoulders against Lake Michigan, resting on the Ohio and the Wabash, stretching along the Mississippi for nearly 400 miles, facing the mouth of the mighty Missouri, it occupies a commanding position at the very heart of the continent. Although 1,000 miles from the ocean, the highways of the world, it is nevertheless in direct communication with it, both by its rivers, its many railroads, and the great chain of unsalted seas that reach from Chicago to the Atlantic seaboard. Here this great Commonwealth occupies the center of American wealth and power, the seat of primacy in the western world.

Here have come the people of every nation of Europe, bringing with them their racial characteristics, their ideas and ideals, their energy and ambition, to develop here a new state that shall be unlike any other and yet superior to all.

Here first came the chivalric, courageous Frenchmen, followed after many years by the canny, thrifty Scot and the aggressive, hot-headed Irish, coming by way of Virginia and the Carolinas, Kentucky and Tennessee, where a larger liberty enlarged the horizon of their ideals..

Here came the alert, restless, resourceful, far-seeing Yankee, passing through the Eastern and Northern States and settling chiefly in the Northern part of the state.

Here came the stubborn, liberty-loving Dutchman, whose forefathers made their land out of the sea.

Here came the sturdy, tenacious, far-seeing, liberty-loving Englishman, with his ideas of the right, to life, liberty and property, whose forefathers formulated the English Common Law—the finest expression of individual liberty this world has ever known.

Here came the vigorous, robust, enterprising people of the Scandinavian countries—sons of the Vikings of old.

Here are found the art-loving Italians, as well as many of those people who do much of the hard work of the State.

Here also are the Greeks, the descendants of a people who created the highest civilization of the world 2,000 years ago.

Here have come the brave, freedom-loving Poles—for generations denied a home in their native land.

Here also are the industrious, rugged Russians, whose brothers in Europe are now struggling supremely to imitate there our form of government.

Here, too, in great numbers, to escape a military autocracy at home, have come the brave, forehanded, industrious, efficient people of Teutonic blood—a race here whether native or foreign born, that is today loyal to the flag of our country. The mingling of all these positive and progressive peoples in a new state has developed a new composite type of citizenship which, inspired and animated by their native genius, embracing all the natural gifts of the human family, modified by their new environment, today make up here in our state, we believe, the finest citizenship this world has ever known. Such a people with such a heritage have in a century transformed a wilderness, once the home of savages, into a mighty state—the home of a great and free people, who are again today pledging their devotion to the sacred cause of liberty and the fundamental principles of our government; who are today giving of their substance and offering to sacrifice their very lives for the inalienable rights of American citizens, and the everlasting principles of righteousness among men and nations.

